REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks. Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on August 14, 2007, and the references cited therewith. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. As of this amendment, claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 14 and 18 have been amended.

As an initial matter, claims 5, 6, 9, 14, 18 were objected to as having various deficiencies. These claims have been amended and no further correction is believed necessary.

35 USC §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 17 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Calvignac et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7167471). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.
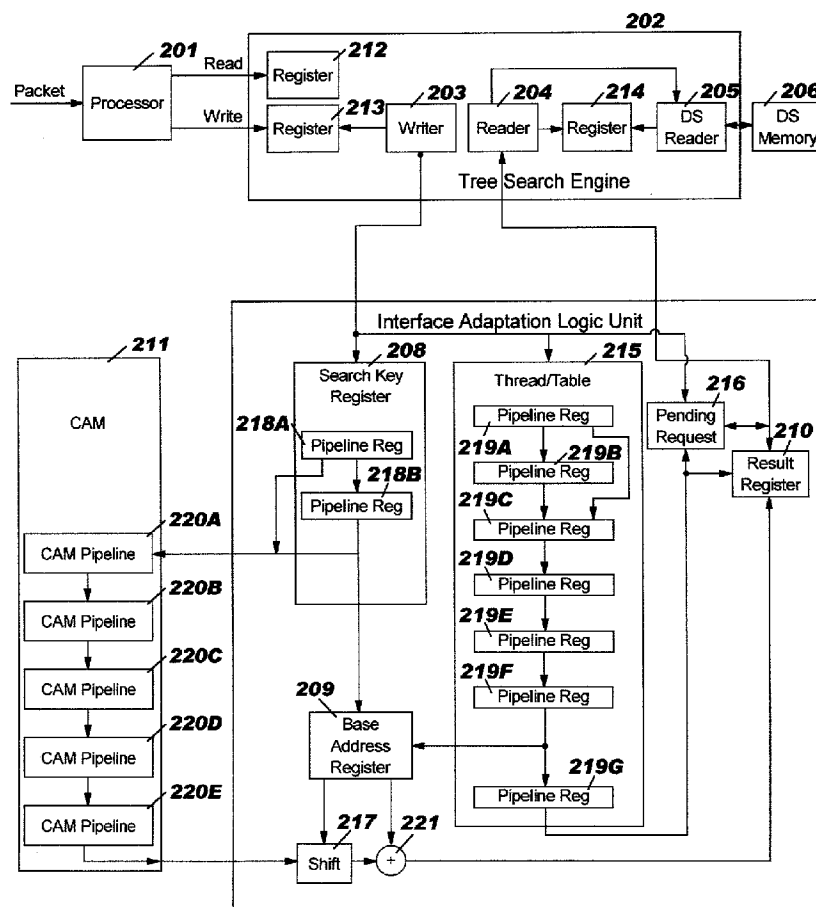
Applicants' independent claim 1 has been provided below for the Examiner's convenience.

> 1. (Original) A method, comprising:
>   registering, in response to an instruction included in source code for an upstream component, a procedure at a downstream component in a packet processing pipeline, the procedure being associated with at least one event;
>   processing a received packet at the upstream component executing on a first engine;
>   processing the packet at the downstream component executing on a second engine after the processing of the received packet at the upstream component, the processing at the downstream component comprising:
>   determining occurrence of the at least one associated event at the downstream component; and
>   in response, executing the registered procedure at the second engine.

Thus, Applicants' independent claim 1 states "processing a received packet at the upstream component executing on a first engine" and "processing the packet at the downstream component executing on a second engine after the processing of the received packet at the upstream component." *Subject application, claim 1. Emphasis Added.*

In contrast, the Examiner relies primarily upon Figure 2 of Calvignac in making his rejection. This figure has been provided below for the Examiner's convenience.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
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FIG. 2

On page 3 of the Official Action the Examiner states "the packet processor 103 comprises a pipeline processing unit: processor 201, tree search engine 202 and DS memory 206, where processor 201 can be considered as the upstream component, and register 212 in the unit tree search engine 202 can be the downstream component." *Official Action, page 3.* Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of Calvignac. Specifically, Applicants are unclear as to how register 212 of Calvignac could be equated with the downstream component of Applicants' independent claim 1. The Examiner is reminded that Applicants' claim 1 states "processing the packet at the downstream component executing on a second engine after the processing of the received packet at the upstream component." It is Applicants' understanding

that register 212 of Calvignac is merely a storage device. Applicants do not understand how a storage device could perform the processing of Applicants' claim 1. This interpretation of register 212 is strengthened by the very passages cited by the Examiner in the Official Action (e.g., col. 5, lines 47-49). These passages of Calvignac state "[R]egister 212 may be configured to store definitions associated with various tables, e.g., routing table, quality of service table, filter table." *Calvignac, col. 5, lines 47-49.* Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Independent claim 10 has been amended to include similar limitations and is believed to be patentable as well.

35 USC §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 6, 15 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calvignac et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7167471), in view of Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6920146). Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calvignac et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7167471), in view of Drort et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0193953). Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are now moot in light of the preceding remarks.

Since claims 2-9 and 11-18, depend either directly or indirectly from Applicants' independent claims 1 and 10, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in condition for allowance as well.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (603-668-6560) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4238.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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